

**Grantsburg School District
2018-2019
Charter School Authorizer Annual Report**

SECTION I: AUTHORIZER INFORMATION

Authorizing Entity:	Grantsburg School District
Authorizer Address:	480 East James Avenue
Authorizer Contact Person:	Josh Watt
Contact Person Title:	Superintendent
Contact Person Phone:	715-436-5499
Contact Person Email:	jwatt@gk12.net

SECTION II: CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

Charter Schools Currently Under Contract:			
School Name:	Contract Start Date:	Contract Expiration Date:	Grades Served:
iForward	2017-2022	2022	6-12

Charter Schools with Non-renewed or Revoked Contract:			
School Name:	Contract Start Date:	Date of Non-renewal or Revocation:	Reason for Non-renewal or Revocation:
NA			

Charter Schools Currently Under Contract that have not Opened:		
School Name:	Contract Start Date:	Date School will Open:
NA		

Charter Schools that Closed:		
School Name:	Date of School Closure:	Reason for Closure:
NA		

iForward School Goals 2018-2019

Goal #1 Cultural Goal: Establishing Teacher and Student Relationships

According to John Hattie's research of educational research, student-teacher relationships are one of the most important indicators of student success and have been verified as making a high impact on student achievement. In addition, our school also has a high rate of student attrition, where students voluntarily leave our school and chose to continue their education elsewhere.

Steps to take to meet this goal:

- *Student clubs will meet weekly. It is believed that students were confused using an every other week schedule and forgot to attend. A weekly schedule will help consistency and enthusiasm. Students will be strongly encouraged to participate in two clubs each quarter. **Accomplished***
- *New clubs will be implemented that are of interest to the students **Accomplished***
- *Each club will have student leaders to encourage more student activity and enthusiasm. **Continued***
- *Clubs and activities will be spotlighted in homerooms **Accomplished***
- *Clubs and student activities will be spotlighted on Facebook **Continued***
- *Clubs and student activities will be spotlighted on our website **Continued***
- *A school blog will be implemented and we will ask for student volunteers to add positive input to spotlight a teacher bi-weekly **Continued***

Measurable Indicators:

- *The number of students in each club will be measured. 50% of students will belong to at least one club. **Accomplished Q1, Not accomplished Q2***
- *Students will complete a brief class survey at the middle and end of each course to give teachers feedback on their perception of connectedness with a goal of 85% of students reporting they feel connected or very connected to the school or to a particular teacher. **Accomplished by teachers who had students report***
- *The exit interviews will include questions to determine why students may have voluntarily left iForward to determine whether or not the student felt connected to a teacher to begin gathering baseline data to determine the factors that influenced them to choose another school.*

As measured by the fall 2018 results of the Student Gallup poll, 57% of our students are “engaged” which is above the national norm but still 28% are “not engaged” and 15% are “actively disengaged”. See page 2 data: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YYt6HBfuJs5P-NVE4iwlaO4MwBZdVhve>

iForward implemented many new clubs that were of interest to students. First quarter over half of our students self-reported to being active in at least one club; however, that number fell second quarter to approximately 35% .

One area we need to strengthen is our social media presence. We did not have social media coverage; however, we did encourage students to join via interactive newsletters:

<https://www.smore.com/8n7gk-iforward-clubs-clubs-clubs?ref=email>

<https://www.smore.com/wcq5a-clubs-clubs-clubs?ref=email>

We did restructure our exit interview to work to determine why students leave iForward. We have a good start on this and we will work to create a more specific exit interview to further pinpoint reasons for leaving. We will also use a Google form so that the results are easily tabulated.

Goal #2: Academic Goal: Student participation in real- life science through the SSEP program.

Each student at iForward has a unique opportunity that many students will never be able to participate in; they have a new opportunity each quarter to develop a new experiment that can change history- that is NOT an exaggeration.

“Real science is done by **competition**, and reflects **an interdisciplinary weave** of science, technology, history, and written communication skills—in the languages of both English (certainly in the U.S.) and **MATHEMATICS.**” “SSEP empowers the student *as scientist* , and within the real-world context of science that is far more than exploration through inquiry. SSEP allows student teams to design an experiment like scientists, with real constraints imposed by the experimental apparatus, current knowledge, and the environment in which the experiment will be conducted; it allows students to propose for a real flight opportunity like professional scientists, bringing critical written communications skills to bear; it allows students to experience a real 2-step science proposal review process; it allows students to go through a real flight safety review like professional researchers; and it provides students their own science conference, where they are immersed in *their* community of researchers, communicating their thoughts, ideas, and experimental results to their peers. Science is more than a way of thinking and interacting with the natural world. Science is more than a book of knowledge. Science is also a complex social landscape filled with challenges and the need for multi-faceted and successful communication with one's peers. SSEP is about introducing *real* science to our next generation of scientists and engineers.” -SSEP website

Steps to take to meet this goal:

- *Students in 6th through 9th grade will participate in real-life inquiry based learning via designing and testing an experiment to take place in microgravity. Accomplished*

- *Students in 10th through 12th grade will be given the opportunity to participate in real life inquiry based learning via designing and testing an experiment to take place in microgravity. Accomplished*
- *iForward will collaborate with university employees and experts throughout the state to assist in refining experimental proposals Accomplished*
- *iForward teachers who have made commitments to pursue the SSEP & Patch will be provided the supports from administration as needed. Accomplished*
- *Weekly progress reports from the iForward teachers will help guide the needs and challenges for students and teachers within the SSEP & Patch. Accomplished*
- *iForward will provide an SSEP Writing Lab with an ELA teacher to provide assistance to students writing proposals. Accomplished*
- *This will be a school-wide collaborative project with all iForward staff working together to create student interest in all schools so all district students grades 6-12 have the opportunity to participate in the SSEP & Patch. Accomplished*

Measurable Indicators:

- *iForward students will submit 50 (or more) scientific experiments with a focus on microgravity with one experiment being accepted by NCESSSE for space flight. Accomplished*
- *iForward students will submit 200 (or more) patch designs with two being accepted being accepted by NCESSSE for space flight. Accomplished 103 middle school students were actively engaged in the competition and 127 patch designs were submitted. The competition write up also states that 139 high school students were actively engaged in the competition and 144 patch designs were submitted.*
- *At least 10 proposals will be viable to be presented to the Step 1 review board. 8 top notch proposals were submitted to the step 1 review board at Carthage College*
- *At least 3 proposals will be viable to be presented to the Step 2 review board. Accomplished*
- *Students whose experiment and patch is selected will use media to promote their (and our school's) accomplishments. Accomplished*

iForward had a second experiment invited to launch aboard the ISS. Four of our high school students and three of our middle school students presented their research at an international conference in Washington DC at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum under the space shuttle Discovery.



Goal #3: Academic Goal: Increase graduation rates.

In the past, we have focused on the graduation rates of students who have attended iForward for four years. We have been very selective in accepting credit deficient seniors because it is very difficult for them to graduate on time within four years. This has lowered our school report card.

This year, we will continue to focus on seniors who have been part of our school for four years. In 2017-2018 the iForward graduation rate increased from 67.9% to 74.4% for the 4-year cohort of students who have attended iForward. This year, we optimistically would like this to increase to 80%.

In addition, we would like to add an additional focus on seniors who transfer to iForward who are credit deficient. In the 2018-2019 school year, we are accepting students we may not have accepted in the past due to extreme credit deficiency. This year, we would like to track their graduation progress to determine if accepting those seniors is in their best interest and if they can make significant progress towards graduation. Our goal is to have 25% of seniors who have fewer than 12 credits graduate in four years having spent one year at iForward.

Steps to take to meet this goal:

- *Teachers and staff will continue to develop strong bonds with students. When students are aware of teachers and staff who care about them, they have a better outcome.*
- *Senior iForward will continue to be team-taught providing more student-teacher interactions.*
- *One of the Senior iForward Instructions will be new to the class; this provides more of the staff an opportunity to understand the expectations for iForward seniors.*
- *iForward will accept more students who are credit deficient but who are motivated to graduate.*
- *A credit recovery program will be strengthened. The curriculum utilized (Acellus: The Science of Learning) has been designed specifically to personalize learning and target learning and achievement gaps in individual students.*
- *Credit deficient students who enroll between quarters will be enrolled in the credit recovery program until the new quarter begins.*
- *Students who enroll as credit-deficient seniors will be encouraged to enroll in credit recovery courses.*

Measurable Indicators:

- The DPI High School Completer score that analyzes graduation rates.
- The number of iForward senior students who enroll credit deficient and graduate within four years will be determined via data in PowerSchool.

Data cannot be reported on at this time. PowerSchool is inaccessible and graduation is not complete until August 31.

Goal #4: Academic Goal: Increased Student Learning in Reading:

At the completion of the 2018-2019 school year, 90% of students who participate and earn credit in iForward's reading RTI program will experience growth that meets or exceeds their RTI program growth target. By strengthening the students reading skills, the overall school report card scores in reading should show an improvement as well.

Steps to take to meet this goal:

- *Provide teacher training and professional development reading techniques during in-service times and faculty meetings during the summer of 2018 and 2018-2019 school year*
Accomplished
- *Strengthen Tier 1 reading referrals and interventions* *Accomplished*
- *Continue to implement the revised RTI (Response to Intervention) as designed by reading specialist teacher* *Accomplished*
- *Provide even smaller group reading assistance for those below grade level skills*
Continuing

Measurable Indicators:

- We will use the benchmark scores in Read Live to help us determine growth. Our goal is to see students growing at least one grade level mean increase.
- We will use Read Naturally's Reading Fluency Progress Monitor Program scores to determine fluency growth. Our goal is to see student growth in reading fluency increase at least 10% (for students who need fluency training but are at reading comprehension grade level) or increase at least one grade level measured by the Read Live program.

Goal met: 90 % of students that passed Reading Lab with an A or a B increased their reading level by 1 grade level or more, or 10% (prorated for the school year).

Goal #5: Academic Goal: Increased Student Learning in Math:

When looking at the iForward DPI report cards in both 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, mathematics is our school's lowest area of achievement with the 8th grade math being the lowest score on each report card. The faculty has brainstormed many reasons for this and the reasons that we believe have the most impact are that students come to us with poor math skills, we have a block schedule and middle school do not receive math instruction until second semester, and finding an effective online math RTI program has been challenging. By strengthening the students math skills, the overall school report card scores in math should show an improvement as well.

Steps to take to meet this goal:

- *The middle school used Moby Max, a middle school personalized online curriculum, to effectively address reading skill needs for middle school students in the past. This*

*program also has a mathematics component. The first semester science curriculum will include Moby Max practice in mathematics so that the student can begin mastering math skills during first semester. **Accomplished***

- *The math department will research and pilot two RTI programs this year. **Exceeded***
- *A high school open math lab with a focus on algebra skills will be added. Students will be encouraged to attend for additional help. **Accomplished***
- *High School students who are behind and/or struggling with their math work will be given a teacher referral and required to attend the open math lab. **Continuing***

Measurable Indicators:

- *The middle school students who complete the assigned work in Moby Max will increase their current mathematics proficiency by one or more grade levels after working in the program for a year. **Middle school students who completed the assigned work in Moby Max increased their proficiency in math by an average of 1.9 grade levels after working in the program for a year.***
- *Two mathematical programs will be tried as RTI programs during the 2018-2019 school year and the value of each program will be discussed. **Goal Exceeded. Three programs were utilized and IXL was chosen as the most effective RTI math program and will be utilized during the 2019-2020 school year.***
- *The high school open math lab will work with students who need additional assistance. This is a new program so we will consider this successful if the number of students served increases throughout the semester. **Accomplished. The number of students using the high school math lab increased steadily throughout the school year.***

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF GRANTSBURG
SCHEDULE OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER SERVICES AND COSTS
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019**

Section IV - Financial Performance of Charter Schools		
	Function Code	
Fund 10		
Regular Curriculum	120000	1,328,447.88
CoCurricular	160000	62,755.36
Pupil Services	211000	9,133.08
Guidance	213000	154,492.22
Health Services	214000	2,032.36
Curriculum Development	221200	10,960.00
Instructional Staff Training	221300	37,824.42
General Administration	230000	9,337.12
Building Administration	240000	1,303,893.13
Fiscal	252000	-
Operation	253000	-
Maintenance	254000	2,200.67
Central Services	260000	30,930.37
Insurance	270000	4,909.88
Interest	280000	-
Purchased Instructional Services	430000	249,698.65
Technology	266000	-
Total Fund 10		3,206,615.14
Fund 27		
Special Education	150000	221,195.19
Guidance	213000	16,175.97
Instructional Staff Training	221300	371.45
special education director	223300	40,519.00
Purchased Instructional Services	430000	17,657.50
Total Fund 27		295,919.11
GRAND TOTAL		3,502,534.25

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF GRANTSBURG
SCHEDULE OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER SERVICES AND COSTS
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019**

SECTION V: OTHER CONTRACT TERMS AND EXPECTATIONS (OPTIONAL)

(Provide a summary and discussion of any additional contract terms or expectations that the authorizer deems relevant to its report on the overall performance of the charter schools it authorizes.)

Section VI Authorized Operating Costs - Indirect costs to the District to Monitor the School		
Operating Activity		
Employee Salaries	100	71,622.00
Employee Benefits	200	9,911.63
Total		81,533.63

Section VII Services provided to Charter school - Business Services, Bldg, Electricity Etc		
Services Provided		
Fiscal	252000	52,482.42
Operation	253000	3,032.65
Maintenance	254000	-
Central Services	260000	-
Insurance	270000	6,381.70
Purchased Instructional Services	430000	-
Interest	280000	8,649.95
Technology	266000	21,139.18
Total		91,685.90